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**For Immediate Release**  
November 13, 2006

### **Statement of the National Association of County & City Health Officials**

#### **Local Health Departments Support National Influenza Vaccination Week**

WASHINGTON, DC (November 13, 2006) - The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is pleased to join the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the nation's public health and medical communities in supporting National Influenza Vaccination Week, November 27 – December 3, 2006. NACCHO urges everyone (except those few for whom it is not recommended) to take some time that week to get a flu shot to protect themselves and their loved ones.

The nation's local health departments have all been working hard this autumn to promote flu vaccination in their communities, as they do in anticipation of every flu season. Many local health departments offer flu shots during scheduled clinics, particularly to those who are most vulnerable and most in need. They also collaborate with medical care providers, nursing homes, and others in their communities to help assure that flu vaccine is available where it is needed.

"Flu shots prevent sickness and death. They help protect everyone from getting sick themselves and unwittingly exposing others in their homes, schools and workplaces to seasonal influenza," said NACCHO President Poki Stewart Namkung, MD, MPH. "NACCHO is delighted to support vigorously a national campaign to promote influenza vaccination which, alongside common-sense measures like regular hand washing and covering your cough, helps keep everyone healthy."

*NACCHO is the national organization representing the nation's nearly 3000 local public health departments. These agencies work every day on the front lines to protect and promote the health of their communities. NACCHO develops resources and programs and promotes national policies that support effective local public health practice.*

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